Protection of protected monuments by private sector

2343. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASI has handed over protected monuments/historical places in the country to private sector for conservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the concerned State Government was sought before handing over of protected monuments/historical places to private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No protected monument has been handed over to private sector for conservation/maintenance. However, on a few monuments, the conservation and preservation works are taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in collaboration with the Age Khan Trust for Culture. These are:-

1. Neela Gumbad
2. Bu-Halima Tomb
3. Arab ki Sarai
4. Barah Khamba, Nizamuddin
5. Group of Monuments in Hazrat Nizamuddin Complex
6. Humayun Tomb

Madden-Julian Oscillation

2344. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the rains triggered by the Madden-Julian Oscillation, an equatorial weather system, could be adopted in India so that uncertain monsoon rains do not adversely affect our agricultural crops, especially in areas like Vidarbha or eastern Uttar Prades—Bihar belt and Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, etc.;

(b) if so, has 'success' in inducing rainfall significantly depend on supportive monsoon conditions over the mainland, including local factors; and

(c) whether any R&D process has started in conjunction with concerned authorities like Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Water Resource, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is used extensively for the operational

monsoon rainfall activity prognosis in India through diagnostic and modelling efforts. The actual rainfall over any region however depends on the local conditions and factors.

(c) Extensive and continuous R and D efforts are pursued by the various groups, both within the institutions of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and outside MoES, to understand and continuously improve the prediction tools of summer monsoon rainfall activity.

Tsunami research centre

2345. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to set up a prestigious tsunami research centre in Gajulararamaram in Ranga Reddy district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present position thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and spent so far for this project; and

(d) if not, by when such proposal will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has already established a state of the art National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), at Gajulararamaram, Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The NTWC at INCOIS has been operational since 15th Oct., 2007 with the state-of-the-art facilities. All the necessary computational and communication infrastructure-that enables reception of real-time data from all the sensors, analysis of the data, generation and dissemination of tsunami advisories following a standard operating procedure-have been put in place. It operates on 24x7 basis and monitors the seismic activity in known tsunamigenic source regions of Indian Ocean as well as the real time water level observations from Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPR) and Tide Gauges for detecting the significant changes in water levels. The centre is equipped for reception of real time seismic and water level changes data from various national and international stations.

Whenever an earthquake of magnitude >6.5 on Richter scale occurs in the Indian Ocean, the centre issues the earthquake information within 10-15 minutes indicating the Tsunamigenic potential qualitatively, and issues tsunami bulletins (Warning/Alert/Watch/All Clear) within 30 minutes to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) based on the proximity of the region to the earth quake location. These messages are followed up by an upgrade message or a cancellation message based on the water level information from BPR's and Tide Gauges with the timelines depending on the availability time of water level observations. The advisory messages from warning center are disseminated as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by means of various communication modes such as dedicated telephone lines, fax, Virtual Private Network-disaster Management Support (VPN-DMS) etc.